UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/753,698	01/03/2001	Nobuyoshi Ninokata	FUJO 18.157	1587

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/753,698	NINOKATA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ramy M. Osman	2157	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>26 June 2007</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 7

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   This communication is responsive to amendment filed on June 26, 2007, where applicant amended claims 2 and 25. Claims 1-25 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed on 6/26/2007 have been fully considered and are not persuasive.

3.   Claim 25 remains rejected under 101.

4.   Applicant argues that Picard teaches "*accessing of one type of medium in any single session*" while applicants invention "*is possible to perform a series of information processes by using different medium which are different from one another in a single session*".

   In reply, Examiner has broadly interpreted the claim to mean that the session manager is able to process requests from different communication devices each in their own single session. The claims are broad and it appears that the claims do not clearly and explicitly state that the multiple communication devices all participate in the same exact single session, where they all share the same exact session properties. Therefore Picard is seen to anticipate the claims as broadly interpreted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

   Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory

subject matter. Applicant states: "A propagation signal". A signal is not considered suitable

computer-readable media in and of itself. It is not tangible and does not produce a concrete and

tangible result. It has no physical structure and therefore does not fall within any of the statutory

categories. To overcome this rejection must remove the limitation "propagation signal

propagating". (see MPEP 2106.01)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7.   **Claims 1-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Picard et al (US**

Patent No. 6,233,318).

8.   In reference to claim 1, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a

session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively, to and from a user (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62).

9.   In reference to claim 3, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the

respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); wherein

each of said plurality of interface devices comprises a session information conversion device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column 20 lines 1-20).

10.   In reference to claim 2, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session (column 6 lines 24-28 & 35-50).

11.   In reference to claim 4, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the

respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

a process device performing an information process while inheriting said unified session information, wherein said integral management device instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to the unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

12.   In reference to claim 5, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said integral management device assigns a plurality of session identifiers to a user identifier of a user at a request to establish a plurality of session identifiers, and instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to a selected session identifier, which is selected by the user from among the plurality of session identifiers, when unified session information including the selected session identifiers is received (column 10 lines 1-35).

13.   In reference to claim 6, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said integral management device stores plural pieces of additional identification information corresponding to results of a plurality of individual processes belonging to the session using the two or more media, and instructs said process device to perform a process based on a result of an individual information process corresponding to selected additional identification information, which is selected by a user from among the plural pieces of additional identification information, when unified session information including the selected additional identification information is received (column 10 lines 1-35).

14.   In reference to claim 7, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information

(column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of

said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a

single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for

respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through

respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the

respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column

13 lines 20-62); and

a register device registering user information, wherein among said plurality of interface

devices, an interface device corresponding to a user-desired available medium confirms a

connection of the available medium, and said register devices registers the available medium as

the user information when the connection of the available medium is confirmed (column 11 lines

17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

15.   In reference to claim 8, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a

session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62); and

a register device registering user information; and an authentication device performing user authentication, wherein: said plurality of media includes a voice medium; when a user requests use of the voice medium, an interface device corresponding to the voice medium among said plurality of interface devices obtains voiceprint information of the user; said register device registers the voiceprint information as the user information; and said authentication device performs user authentication of the user according to the entered voiceprint information when the user gains access (column 10 lines 1-67, column 19 lines 35-60 and column 20 lines 50-67).

16.   In reference to claim 9, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information

(column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15); and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from each of

said plurality of interface devices, and performing a process relating to session management on a

single session of a series of information processes where respective process requests for

respective information processes in the single session are transmitted from the user through

respective different media among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 15-18) and the

respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information (column

13 lines 20-62); and

a process device performing an process relating to information search while inheriting the

unified session information, wherein said integral management device instructs said process

device to perform a searching process corresponding to the unified session information (column

11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

17.   In reference to claim 10, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said

process device comprises a control device assigning plural pieces of history identification

information to results of a plurality of corresponding searching processes belonging to the

session using the two or more media; and integral management device assigns a plurality of

session identifiers to a user identifier of a user at a request to establish a plurality of session

identifiers, and instructs said process device to perform a process corresponding to a selected

session identifier, which is selected by the user from among the plurality of session identifiers,

when unified session information including the selected session identifiers is received (Summary and column 13 lines 30-67).

18.   In reference to claim 11, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the process device comprises:

A storage device storing a result of a latest searching process among results of a plurality of searching processes belonging to the session using the two or more media; and a control device controlling for performing a re-searching process based on the result of the latest searching process when said integral management device instructs a searching process corresponding to the unified session information (column 10 lines 1-10 & 33-67 and column 13 lines 30-67).

19.   In reference to claim 12, Picard teaches the apparatus managing a session of an information process through a network, comprising:

a mail communications device transmitting and receiving data of an electronic mail medium; a WEB communications device transmitting and receiving data of an WEB medium; a voice communications device transmitting and receiving data of a voice medium (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a mail control device receiving session information from said mail communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; a WEB control device receiving session information from said WEB communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session information; a voice control device receiving session information from said voice

communications device and generating unified session information corresponding to received

session information; (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15);

and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from said mail

control device, said WEB control device, and said voice control device, and performing a

process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes

where respective process requests for respective information processes in the single session are

transmitted from the user through respective different media among the electronic mail medium,

the WEB medium, and the voice medium (column 4 lines 15-18) and the respective requests are

processed according to the received unified session information (column 13 lines 20-62),

wherein

each of said mail control device, voice control device, and WEB control device includes a

session information conversion device converting the received session information into the

unified session information (column 11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20)).

20.   In reference to claim 13, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said

integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start

of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a

disconnection of the session (column 8 lines 54-67 and column 10 lines 45-50).

21.   In reference to claim 14, Picard teaches the apparatus managing a session of an

information process through a network, comprising:

a mail communications device transmitting and receiving data of an electronic mail

medium; a WEB communications device transmitting and receiving data of an WEB medium; a

voice communications device transmitting and receiving data of a voice medium, to and from a

user (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a mail control device receiving session information from said mail communications

device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received session

information; a WEB control device receiving session information from said WEB

communications device, and generating unified session information corresponding to received

session information; a voice control device receiving session information from said voice

communications device and generating unified session information corresponding to received

session information; (column 10 lines 1-35 and column 20 lines 5-15);

and

an integral management device receiving the unified session information from said mail

control device, said WEB control device, and said voice control device, and performing a

process relating to session management of a single session of a series of information processes

where respective accessing processes in the single session are performed using respective

different media among the electronic mail medium, the WEB medium, and the voice medium

and the respective requests are processed according to the received unified session information

(column 13 lines 20-62t), and

a process device performing an process relating to information search while inheriting the

unified session information, wherein said integral management device instructs said process

device to perform a searching process corresponding to the unified session information (column

11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

22.   In reference to claim 15, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a

session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

        a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25); and

        a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communication devices,

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and

performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of

information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in

the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the

plurality of media and the respective requests are processed according to the unified session

information (column 13 lines 20-62), wherein

        each of said plurality of interface devices includes a session information conversion

device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column

20 lines 1-20).

23.   In reference to claim 16, Picard teaches the apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said

integral management device performs a process relating to session management including a start

of the session using the two or more media, identity management for the session, and a

disconnection of the session (column 8 lines 54-67 and column 10 lines 45-50).

24.   In reference to claim 17, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a

session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information,

performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of

information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in

the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the

plurality of media and the respective requests are processed according to the unified session

information (column 13 lines 20-62); wherein

said plurality of interface devices cooperatively perform the process relating to the

session management in a distributed manner according to the unified session information

(Summary).

25.   In reference to claim 18, Picard teaches a session management apparatus managing a

session of an information process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25);

a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and

performing a process relating to session management of a single session of a series of

information processes where respective process requests for respective information processes in

the single session are transmitted from the user through respective different media among the

plurality of media and the respective requests are processed according to the unified session

information (column 13 lines 20-62); wherein

one of said plurality of interface devices representatively performs the process relating to

the session management (Summary).

26.   In reference to claims 19,20 and 22, Picard teaches a session management apparatus, a

computer readable storage medium, and a method for managing a session of an information

process through a network using a plurality of media, comprising:

an issue device issuing session identification information using two or more media

among the plurality of media (column 4 lines 5-15, column 6 lines 1-25 and column 7 lines 5-

20);

a management device performing consistent session management on a single session of a

series of information processes where respective process requests for respective information

processes in the single session are transmitted through respective different media and the

respective requests are processed according to the identification information (column 13 lines

20-62); and

an interface device converting the issued session identification information and notifying

the converted session identification information to a user (column 10 lines 1-35).

27.   In reference to claims 21 and 23, Picard teaches the storage medium and method

according to claims 20 and 22, wherein said integral management device performs a process

relating to session management including a start of the session using the two or more media,

identity management for the session, and a disconnection of the session (column 8 lines 54-67

and column 10 lines 45-50).

28.   In reference to claims 24 and 25, Picard teaches a session management apparatus and a

program managing a session of an information process through a network using a plurality of

media, comprising:

        a plurality of communications devices transmitting and receiving data of the plurality of

media respectively (column 4 lines 8-15 and column 6 lines 10-25); and

        a plurality of interface devices respectively corresponding to the plurality of media,

respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communication devices,

generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information, and

performing a process relating to session management of a session using two or mere media

among the plurality of media according to the unified session information (column 13 lines 20-

62), wherein

        each of said plurality of interface devices includes a session information conversion

device converting the received session information into the unified session information (column

11 lines 17-35 and column 20 lines 1-20).

Conclusion

29.   The above claims are rejected based upon their broadest reasonable interpretation.

Applicant is advised that the above specified citations of the relied upon prior art are only

representative of the teachings of the prior art, and that any other supportive sections within the

entirety of the reference (including any figures, incorporation by references, claims, and priority

documents) is implied as being applied to teach the scope of the claims.

30.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008.

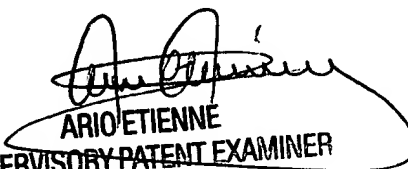The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO
August 14, 2007

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